

12/10/2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

I am writing to support the Comments of Brattleboro Community Television, Inc. (File ID 1113560010350) and to disapprove of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC’s September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05-311.

I am a resident of Southern Vermont, living 12 miles from the town of Brattleboro, VT. I am also a registered voter in Vermont. I have had the opportunity to host a radio show on WOOL.FM, a community radio station in Bellows Falls, VT, another nearby town in Southern VT. I know the importance of community access to public forums and the need for those living in rural areas who need the opportunity to witness their government in action when travel to gatherings is often prohibitive because of time and distance and even weather constraints. Community Media Broadcast is critical in meeting the needs of the public to stay informed about the issues their community needs to address. We, the people, need to be an active and informed part of the governing process, something which would be significantly hindered by lack of access to the services provided by the likes of Brattleboro Community Television and its Public, Educational, and Governmental Access broadcasts.

This local presence enables the residents of Brattleboro, VT, and the surrounding area to create and watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. And that was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining “franchise fee” in an overly broad fashion to include “in-kind” support, the FCC’s proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators – something that was never the intent of the Act – and could ultimately result in such reduction in franchise fees as to defund PEG Access in our state.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG Access in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,
Arthur Coates